

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated June 29, 2007.

Claims 1-18 and 20-33 are in the application. Claims 1-18 and 26-33 have been allowed. Claim 19 has been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 20-22, 24, 25, 32 and 33 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention. Claims 1, 22, 26 and 29-33 are independent. Favorable review is respectfully requested.

The applicant wishes to express his appreciation to the Examiner for having allowed claims 1-18 and 26-33. Claims 32 and 33 have been amended to make minor editorial corrections.

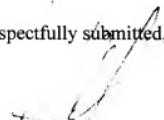
The applicant also notes the Examiner's statement that claims 21-23 (dependent from claim 19) recited allowable subject matter. Solely to advance prosecution, and to obtain early allowance of subject matter, and without conceding the correctness of the Examiner's position, claim 22 has been rewritten in independent form, reciting all of the features of claim 19. Claims 20, 21, 24 and 25 have been amended to depend from claim 22. Accordingly, amended independent claim 22, together with claims 20, 21 and 23-25 dependent therefrom, are believed to be allowable.

Claims 19, 20, 24 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Portilla (U.S. Pat. No. 6,901,361). Claim 19 has been cancelled, thereby rendering the rejection of that claim moot. Applicant disagrees with the Examiner's rejection and reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of claim 19 and its dependents, as previously presented, in a continuing application. Claims 20, 24, and 25 now depend from claim 22, which is allowable as noted just above. The rejection is therefore believed to have been overcome by the claim amendments presented herein.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, favorable consideration and early passage to issue of this application are respectfully requested.

The applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached by telephone at 212-801-6729. All correspondence should continue to be directed to the address listed below, which is the address associated with Customer Number 76058.

Respectfully submitted,


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